

**Report on**  
**“Visit to CICR, RMD and MAFSU, Nagpur”**  
15 May, 2015 (Friday)



We (Mahesh Maske and Mahesh Sadatpure) visited the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Regional Meteorological Department (RMD) and Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU) Nagpur, on Friday 15 May 2015. The objectives of the trip were – 1) to find out from CICR about availability of cotton seeds for the coming Kharif season, 2) discuss the requirements for setting up a mini-weather station with the RMD and 3) discuss possible interventions under animal husbandry in the FSN villages, with officials at MAFSU.

### **CICR**

At CICR we met with Dr. Sandhya Kranthi (Head, Plant Protection Division) and Dr. Venugopalan (Principal Scientist) to find out about availability of seeds of cotton varieties for cultivation under high density planting system in the FSN Villages this forthcoming Kharif. They informed that three varieties are available this year viz. Suraj, NH -065 3 and Phule Dhanvantari. Only seed of Phule Dhanvantari is available with CICR this year. For the other varieties, they will indicate the research stations we should approach for this purpose.

Dr. Sandhya Kranthi suggested we demonstrate Phule Dhanvantari variety which is suitable for barren land with poor soil topography and requiring less moisture. The seed is available in 2 kg bag for half an acre. We could demonstrate 2 farmers' fields in each village this year.

### **Regional Meteorological Department (RMD)**

We visited the RMD and discussed with Mr. Lonkar, Assistant Meteorologist about setting up a meteorological observatory, meteorological parameters to be monitored, details of equipments, the cost and set up etc. IMD manufactures the instrument only for the use of Govt. departments but they can suggest accredited laboratories from where we may purchase the instruments. He suggested we write request letter to the Dy. Director General, IMD Pune and request instruments for setting a mini weather station. They will then suggest the labs that can be approached for this purpose.

We visited the RMD observatory with Mr. Milind Phadake, Assistant Meteorologist and were shown the various instruments they are using, the parameters procedures to collect meteorological data. They indicated that the approximate cost of Rain gauge and thermometer is 60000.00 (includes Stevenson's screen, Maximum and Minimum thermometer, Wet bulb and Dry bulb thermometer and Rain gauge). RMD is willing to help us set up the mini-weather station and orient us on how to take the readings.

## **Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU)**

We visited MAFSU Nagpur and discussed with Dr. Landage, Sr. Technical Officer, Extension; he has suggested we start the exercise of de-worming the animals in all villages immediately and undertake vaccination after 10 days of de-worming. We discussed the livestock interventions plan for forthcoming year and he suggested we promote some low cost models of silage preparation, fodder and grasses cultivation, seed rearing of fish etc. I have suggested we convene a meeting with MAFSU Team when our Research Director visits for the intervention plans under animal husbandry. I have shared our priority based indicative livestock intervention plan together with contingency measures and explained their relationship with other planned interventions in the FSN villages.

### **Thanking you.**

Mahesh Maske  
Mahesh Sadatpure  
LANSA, MSSRF, Wardha